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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

ASK KAISER WHO SUNK SUSSEX

State Department Cables Germany an Inquiry Regarding Responsibility for the Torpedoing of Liners

Washington, Mar. 28.—The state department today cabled to Berlin an inquiry asking whether a German submarine torpedoed the steamers Sussex and Englishman.

Berlin was notified by the state department that evidence now in possession of the United States indicated that submarines were responsible.

The inquiry probably will not arrive in Berlin before tomorrow or Thursday, owing to the usual cable delays in all matters transmitted to the German capital.

Washington, Mar. 28.—President Wilson and his cabinet today decided to ask Germany for information about the explosion which damaged the steamer Sussex in the English channel, with severe loss of life.

It is still apparent that the state department and the White House are disposed to demand something more than a mere disavowal if it is shown that a German submarine was responsible.

It is not believed that a severance of diplomatic relations would be too drastic. The cabinet decided to interrogate Germany after Secretary Lansing had presented his official reports of the disaster.

The cabinet believes these reports insufficient to determine that a German submarine torpedoed the channel steamer, with its cargo of passengers, and that the torpedo was hurled without warning.

The inquiry is expected to be forwarded soon.

Washington, Mar. 28.—Whether America, on receipt of proof that German submarines torpedoed the steamers Sussex and Englishman without warning, will allow diplomacy to take its course or sever diplomatic relations with Germany, immediately was discussed at today's cabinet meeting and at a conference between President Wilson and Senator Stone.

Both the cabinet and the senator were expected to tell the president

\$40,000,000 MOVIE MERGER CONFIRMED

New York, Mar. 28.—Positive confirmation of the reported \$40,000,000 motion picture merger was obtained today. Most of the large producing corporations will join forces to eliminate unnecessary expense. Formal announcement of the move is expected soon.

The companies to be included in this step are the Paramount, Mutual, Universal, Vitaphone, Lubin, Selig, Essanay and Metro.

Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin will be the principal stars.

Mary Pickford has already signed a three-year contract which, it is estimated, will bring her \$600,000 annually. Chaplin's contract calls for \$670,000 a year.

All expenses of unnecessary duplication will be done away with when the merger is placed on a working basis. Every film will be sent out from a single distributing center.

It is rumored that the American Tobacco company, and possibly the Standard Oil, are financing the merger.

COLOR POSTER CALLS ON YOUTH OF U.S. TO ENLIST

San Francisco, Mar. 28.—Printed in vivid colors, an army recruiting poster rivaling in appearance the famous "Your King and Country Need You" appeal of Great Britain, appeared on walls in all parts of San Francisco today.

"Come On, Boys, Shoulder the Trusty Springfield!" it cried from the signboards. Placid folks, going to work with no thought of war, were suddenly confronted with "ENLIST—Are You Game?"

From fences and posts the printed word went out: "Business men can help; the boys are now crossing the alkali deserts and jungles of Mexico. Old Glory invites your service."

The posters asked for 500 enlistment applicants a day.

Thirty men daily are joining the colors at the Market street office.

A call has been issued for civil, mechanical, mining and electrical engineers to co-operate with army and militia authorities in raising a national guard engineer corps of 1,000 men. Companies are to be organized in San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and Sacramento at once, and in other cities later. The men will be trained in digging trenches, building pontoon bridges, placing barbed wire entanglements, constructing artillery shelters and making military highways.

RAILROADS AGREE ON TRAFFIC PLAN

To obviate the disadvantage to shippers in handling their freight shipments over the California & Oregon Coast railroad, the company has perfected an arrangement with Agent Isham of the Southern Pacific whereby freight will be handled through the S. P. station without transfer. Under this traffic arrangement all shipments of freight in less than car lots over the C. & O. C. railway will be handled through the Southern Pacific freight station, from which they will be handled without charge for transfer. Freight over the new line will go forward on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays of each week, and goods must be delivered to the S. P. station by four o'clock of the day previous. No transfer will be required for through shipments, thus reducing the expense of sending freight over the new road by the usual 25-cent transfer charge. There will be no changes in the schedule of trains, and passengers will be received and discharged at the usual place, the arrangement with the Southern Pacific affecting only the handling of the freight. S. P. switching engines will set the freight cars over to the new line.

HURRY SUPPLIES TO TROOPS IN MEXICO

San Antonio, Mar. 28.—Supply trains carrying munitions and provisions from Columbus to the American base of operations in Mexico are being speeded up today as the problem of maintaining lines of communication becomes more severe. Numbers of trains, each composed of 27 motors, are being rushed to Columbus for immediate use.

Major-General Funston denied the report of a bandit raid on the Kelly ranch near El Paso. He said:

"We have no reports of any such action or of trouble anywhere. All we can do is wait and hope that our line of supplies will not be broken."

VOTE CASH TO PAY ARMY IN MEXICO

Deficiency Bill, Carrying \$8,600,000 to Cover Cost of Expedition After Villa, Is Passed by House and Senate

Washington, Mar. 28.—The senate this afternoon unanimously passed the army deficiency bill providing funds for the American expeditionary force in Mexico. It then placed Senator Chamberlain's army bill on the calendar for tomorrow.

Washington, Mar. 28.—Voting 373 to one, the house today passed the army deficiency bill appropriating \$8,600,000 to cover the cost of the American expedition into Mexico and enable the war department to recruit the army to full strength, buy aeroplanes, motor trucks and equipment.

Congressman London, socialist, of New York, was the only member casting a negative vote. The house's action is taken as congressional endorsement of the move against Francisco Villa.

The bill provides for eight aeroplanes and, if necessary, for 24, and appropriates \$500,000 for them.

"There are only eight aeroplanes in Mexico," said Congressman Mann today. "There ought to be 80 there."

According to Congressman Fitzgerald, the army has not invested in aeroplanes because of the difficulty of getting good engines. He said:

"The allies buy American planes, but they always substitute their own engines."

A few hours after the house passed the deficiency bill, the senate finance committee strongly recommended that the upper house also adopt it. The expectation is that it will pass the senate before night.

Misc Jessie Martin returned this morning from a business visit at Portland.

DISCUSS GOOD ROADS AS AN AID TO PREPAREDNESS AT CONVENTION

Spokane, Mar. 28.—The problems of good roads and preparedness were linked today in the Northwest Preparedness conference when E. P. Mathewson, president of the Good Roads association and the Automobile Association of Montana, emphasized the importance of a permanent network of highways for military purposes.

"Permanent Highways and Good Roads as a Part of Preparedness," was the topic to which he was assigned. As general manager of the Anaconda Copper Mining company's reduction works, Mathewson has induced that company to match dollar for dollar with several counties in Montana to build permanent roads.

The action of the war department in ordering army officers not to participate actively in the conference had little effect today. Lieutenant Colonel Baker, though he spoke as a private citizen, was thought to have voiced the sentiments of army officers in general when he spoke yesterday. His utterances had time to sink deep into the minds of the 150 or more delegates before the telegram arrived from Washington excluding officers from the conference.

Many officers were in attendance today, but none participated in the speaking.

The conference will end tonight.

RENEW SLAV ATTACK ON TEUTONS

Campaign Opens Along a Hundred-Mile Front in Attempt to Gain Highlands Before the Spring Floods

Berlin, Mar. 28.—Russian troops today are renewing their attacks against Field Marshal von Hindenburg's soldiers on a 100-mile front.

Hurling themselves again and again at the barbed wire entanglements of the Germans, the Slavs are being slaughtered in great numbers. They have not suffered heavier losses since the memorable retreat from Dunaiev a year ago.

But they must keep on attacking or admit defeat and retreat.

The spring thaw will soon set in. Then Russian lowlands will be flooded, and the czar's commanders must withdraw their entire line.

The Germans will suffer from floods also, but they will not be compelled to withdraw as much as the Russians. Therefore, the Slavs are wasting much ammunition in desperate efforts to seize higher positions before spring freshets turn their trenches into muddy ditches and make their camps into a vast swamp.

Despite the fury of repeated Russian charges, German officers are confident their line will be held intact. One German officer wrote relatives here that Russian marksmanship was very poor.

So strong are the Teuton defenses that this officer wrote his battalion lost only two killed and 17 wounded when the Slavs came on behind a curtain of terrific explosions.

Formerly one Russian officer was found among every 300 privates captured, on the average. Now, however, the ratio is one officer to every 60 rankers.

CENSORSHIP ON NEWS OF MEXICO IS TIGHTENED

Columbus, N. M., Mar. 28.—Tightening of the censorship on dispatches from Casas Grandes and the activity of troops here, preparing for some unknown movement were believed to forecast important developments today. The censorship will also be tightened elsewhere, it was announced. Another trainload of fresh horses arrived today. All the animals were clipped immediately. Pack trains south of Casas Grandes are understood to be straining up precipitous mountains, carrying provisions to the advancing American soldiers.

Collector of Customs Riggs today auctioned 90 Villista horses which were abandoned during the raid on Columbus. The proceeds will be turned over to the treasury department.

LAND SEEKERS MUST KEEP PLACE IN LINE

Portland, Mar. 28.—Sixty-four weary waiters stood in line before the government land office today waiting for the opening of Siletz Indian reservation lands on April 1. They can not leave their numbers and reclaim their places when the drawing begins. Secretary of the Interior Lane yesterday sent a message crushing this hope. The law does not permit it, said the secretary.

OPERATION WINS GERMAN'S FREEDOM

San Francisco, Mar. 28.—Amid dramatic circumstances, Dr. Carl Werner won his freedom from an Australian internment camp by operating on a wounded British officer and proving he was a surgeon. Physicians are immune from internment.

Telling the story today, Dr. Werner, who arrived on the liner Sierra, said he was incarcerated for 11 months. Having lost his papers he was unable to prove his profession until the officer arrived from Gallipoli, so seriously injured that only a most delicate operation would save him.

Dr. Werner got permission from the camp authorities and performed the operation which other surgeons and his guards watched critically. The operation was successful and Dr. Werner, his wife and child were permitted to depart.

ANOTHER BRITISH STEAMER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

London, Mar. 28.—All hands were saved when the British steamer Empress of Midland was sunk, presumably by a submarine or mine, announcement said today. The vessel was of 2,224 tons, all steel.

BRITISH DESTROY GERMAN TRENCHES

Berlin, Mar. 28.—Fighting around St. Etienne, where the British attacked and destroyed German trenches, may develop into a strong enemy offensive, the war office announced today.

British troops are continuing their pounding of the German lines, although no important gains have been made. Improved weather has brought out many British aeroplanes, which fill the air over the battlefield. It was suggested that this extensive aviation, the good weather and the heavy attacks indicate that the British are beginning a drive to relieve pressure on Verdun.

The situation, however, is reported unchanged.

The Russians continued their attacks during the night in the Post-leges region without result.

VILLA IS LOST SOMEWHERE IN MEXICO

Hunted Outlaw Has Escaped Pursuers, and It Is Believed That His Band Is Splitting Into Small Parties

El Paso, Mar. 28.—Francisco Villa's exact whereabouts were unknown to officials this afternoon. General Gavira, believing he was marching southwest toward Minaca, said indications were he was splitting up his band, probably intending to reunite it at some selected place.

General Bertalan wired from Madera that the situation in the Casas Grandes district was quiet. Gavira would not discuss reports that American officers had not been permitted to use the Mexico Northwestern telegraph lines to the border for personal messages to their wives and sweethearts.

FRAGMENTS OF METAL CAME FROM TORPEDO

London, Mar. 27.—Fragments of bronze metal which British naval officers picked up aboard the Sussex are pieces of a torpedo, it was authoritatively stated today. The splinters were found when the vessel arrived at Boulogne after having been damaged by an explosion which killed scores and injured several Americans. The British admiralty has not yet issued its official statement.

George Crocker, American, is in a critical condition at Dover, and may not recover. He sustained a fractured skull and other injuries. During the night Crocker suffered a relapse. Other wounded Americans are recovering.

Many, however, lost all their belongings and several were obliged to cable home for funds. The captain of the Sussex declares he saw the flash of a torpedo as the explosion shattered the Sussex amidships.

GERMAN DESTROYER RAMMED BY BRITISH

London, Mar. 28.—Rammed by the British cruiser Cleopatra, a German destroyer was sunk in the North sea last Sunday night, after a battle between a British squadron and a flotilla of Teuton destroyers. It was announced by the admiralty today. The destroyer's crew drowned.

All British ships engaged in recent operations off the German coast returned safely, except the destroyer Medusa, previously reported lost in a collision. The Medusa crew was saved. Twenty prisoners from the two German armed trawlers sunk by British destroyers were brought back to port with the victorious squadron.

The engagement probably followed the clash off the north Frisian coast Saturday in which two German armed patrol boats were sunk. Germany then admitted that a destroyer had not returned from the fight.

NO ANTI-AMERICAN OUTBREAK AT TAMPIO

Galveston, Mar. 28.—Wireless messages from Tampico today said there had been no anti-American outbreaks there, but fear of them persists. The Gulf Refining company's yacht left for Port Arthur with the wives and children of Tampico oil men who were afraid to remain longer among the Mexicans.